

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim [[1]] 18, wherein said central webs of said first and second portions are releasably securable together.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim [[1]] 18, wherein said central webs are substantially normal to said decks.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim [[1]] 18, wherein said top and bottom webs are releasably securable to said decks.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim [[1]] 18, wherein said webs are releasably securable to at least one of said decks and/or and each other by fastening means.

Claim 6 (original): The pallet according to claim 5, wherein said fastening means are threaded fasteners.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The pallet according to claim 5, wherein said pallet includes a plurality of holes for receiving each said fastening means.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim 5, wherein said fastening means are welds or rivets.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim [[1]] 18, wherein said pallet is of a generally rectangular configuration having a front edge, a rear edge and two side edges.

Claim 10 (original): The pallet according to claim 9, wherein at least one edge includes a cover plate.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim [[1]] 18, wherein at least one elongate bearer includes a stiffener.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim [[1]] 18, wherein at least one bearer includes an end cap.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim [[1]] 18, wherein at least one of said top and/or and said bottom deck is of a profiled configuration.

Claim 14 (original): The pallet according to claim 13, wherein said profiled configuration are corrugations.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim [[1]] 18, wherein said pallet includes sheet material secured to at least one said deck.

Claim 16 (currently amende3d): The pallet according to claim [[1]] 18, wherein said pallet includes cavities for receipt of tines of a forklift or other handling equipment.

Claim 17 (original): The pallet according to claim 16, wherein said cavities are located on all sides of said pallet.

Claim 18 (new): A metal pallet having:  
a top deck of sheet metal;  
a bottom deck of sheet metal spaced from the top deck;  
at least two longitudinally elongated bearers each formed of sheet metal and secured to and extending transversely between the decks so that the top deck is supported on the bottom deck; and wherein

each bearer has a first and a second longitudinally extending bearer portion, with each portion being secured to and extending separately transversely between said decks and wherein each portion has a longitudinally extending top web secured to the top deck, a longitudinally extending bottom web secured to the bottom deck, a longitudinally extending central web extending generally normal to said decks, and longitudinally extending inclined web

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portions securing the central web to the top and bottom webs, each inclined web portion being inclined to the decks by an acute angle.